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Pat Shannahan/The Arizona Republic

ein oversees an operation that includes the CRJ-900. He's pany's largest regional jet.

ir Group will ets for Delta

ocky year

esa Air Group's stock has suffered this year on concerns about the

Cox forced to release documents

Ariz. probe looks into service deals

By Ken Alltucker The Arizona Republic

Arizona regulators Wednesday took the unusual step of asking a judge to force Cox to hand over documents relating to a statewide review of exclusive deals reached between the communications company and private developers.

After Cox failed to hand over documents or answer questions about its private deals with developers, Arizona Corporation Commission staff obtained an order from Administrative Law Judge Dwight Nodes that will make Cox cooperate with the state's request

Michael Patten, a lawyer representing Cox, said the company's slow response was due to miscommunication, timing and a pending federal antitrust investigation of a deal that Cox reached to become the main provider of communications for the Vistancia masterplanned community in Peoria.

He also acknowledged that Cox officials at the company's Atlanta headquarters ultimately decided whether to release or withhold documents.

Yet corporation commissioners, who view the issue of so-called preferred

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world's biggest dialysis-care companies.

ide-oil inventories and so are prices

il prices climbed above \$50 arrel Wednesday despite ng U.S. inventories of de oil and gasoline, a counintuitive market response t analysts chalked up to hnical trading and speculaa about future supply tight-

Light, sweet crude for June ivery rose 63 cents to settle \$50.13 a barrel on the New rk Mercantile Exchange. uncing off an intraday low of 3.80. Gasoline futures rose cent to close at \$1.4664 a llon, rebounding from an iniday low of \$1.42.

The latest petroleum supply apshot from the U.S. Departent of Energy showed a shareholder. 5 million barrel increase in ude oil last week, bringing e nation's inventories to 7 million barrels, or 9 perent above year ago levels.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Owest urged to revive bid for takeover of MCI

NEW YORK — Owest Communications International Inc. is being urged by some of MCI Inc.'s largest shareholders to revive its \$9.75 billion takeover offer for the company.

Fairholme Capital Management LLC and Elliott Associates LP said Owest Chief Executive Officer Richard Notebaert should revive the pursuit. Owest abandoned its campaign after MCI again endorsed a lower bid from Verizon Communications Inc.

"I'm not giving up on this," Fairholme President Bruce Berkowitz said Wednesday. Fairholme, based in Short Hills, N.J., held a 3.4 percent stake in MCI In December, making it the fourth-largest

III Time Warmer Inc. said Wednesday that its first -quarter earnings rose slightly on growth at its cable networks. cable TV and several one-time gains. Time Warner earned \$963 million, or 20 cents a share, in the first three months of 2005, up from \$961 million, also 20 cents per share, a year

Cigna Corp. said Wednesday that first-quarter earnings soared more than sixfold from last year. Net income jumped to \$436 million, or \$3.28 per share, for the three months ended March 31 from \$68 million, or 48 cents per share, a

year ago.

ArvinMeritor Inc. said Wednesday that it plans to cut 1.850 jobs at 11 plants, or about 6 percent of its global workforce. The company would not specify where the cuts are being made or the plants affected. But in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, ArvinMeritor said the cuts primarily will affect its light-vehicle segment, mostly outside the United States.

Wire services

COX Ariz. seeks papers

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provider agreements as a potential barrier to competition in Arizona's telecommunications market, were clearly dismaved with Cox's answers.

"We don't consider it a timing issue," Commissioner Marc Spitzer said. "We consider it stonewalling."

Nodes on Wednesday ordered Cox respond within one week to the Corporation Commission's list of 39 questions and document requests. The state agency asked every Arizona licensed telecommunications company to respond by March 18 to the questions about preferred providers. which Cox has yet to do.

Several smaller companies answered state regulators. Owest, Arizona's largest telephone company, also has responded to the state's questionnaire.

The state agency has two ongoing cases involving the issue of preferred providers, exclusive deals reached between developers and telecommunications companies in new-home communities.

The case that Cox so far has declined to participate in involves a broad look at the preferred-provider issue to possibly establish policy governing the practice.

The second case stems from a complaint filed by a smaller company, Accipiter Communications, which claims it was shut out of the Vistancia community based on a deal between Cox and Sunbelt Holdings, the developer.

In that deal, Cox became the community's main provider of high-speed Internet and telephone service after paying a \$500,000-per-phase licensing fee to a Sunbelt affiliate, Vistancia Communications.

A key question in the Accipiter case is whether Vistancia Communications acted as a telecommunications company and is subject to oversight by the Corporation Commission.